

Statement on the Report of the Commission on Immigration Reform *September 30, 1997*

The Commission on Immigration Reform, chaired by the Honorable Shirley Hufstедler and the late Barbara Jordan, issued its final report today. This report, which reiterates many of the excellent recommendations contained in the Commission's interim reports, further contributes to our country's understanding of the role of immigration in the United States. I commend the Commission's work and its contribution to the national dialog on immigration policy.

America has always been a nation of immigrants, and I am proud of the significant progress my administration has made toward improving America's immigration system. My administration has curtailed illegal immigration through tougher border control, strengthened worksite enforcement, and the removal of record numbers of criminal and other illegal aliens. We have also worked to improve and tighten the

naturalization process and have made needed reforms to our asylum system for refugees fleeing persecution.

One of the Commission's recommendations is to restructure the immigration system by reallocating the main functions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to other agencies. This proposal raises difficult and complex issues which need further consideration. I have asked the Domestic Policy Council to coordinate with the affected Federal agencies to evaluate carefully the Commission's proposal and other reform options designed to improve the executive branch's administration of the Nation's immigration laws.

With this report, the Commission completes its work. I want to thank all of its members and staff for their service and contribution on these important issues.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashana, 1997 *September 30, 1997*

Warmest greetings to everyone celebrating Rosh Hashana.

Throughout the centuries, the shofar has sounded on this day to herald the beginning of the High Holy Days and the start of a new year. It is a time for both joy and reflection—joy in the promise of another year in which to live and work, reflection on how to grow closer to God and family. It is also an opportunity to look back on our failures and shortcomings during the past year; not to dwell on them with bitterness and regret, but to learn

from our mistakes so that the new year will be sweetened by the gifts of wisdom and hope.

As Jews across America and around the world gather to reaffirm their faith in God and their love of family and community, Hillary and I extend best wishes that the coming year will be blessed with great abundance, true peace, and lasting joy.

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 30.

Statement on Signing the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1998 *September 30, 1997*

I have today signed into law H.R. 2016, the "Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1998," which provides funding for military con-

struction and family housing programs of the Department of Defense.

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The Act funds the vast majority of my request for military construction projects, the military family housing program, other quality-of-life projects for our military personnel and their families, and the base closure and realignment program.

I am concerned, however, that the Congress has chosen to add funds for projects that the Department has not identified as priorities.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining FY 1998 appropriations bills as

quickly as possible, and to send them to me in an acceptable form.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 30, 1997.

NOTE: H.R. 2016, approved September 30, was assigned Public Law No. 105–45.

Statement on Signing Continuing Appropriations Legislation September 30, 1997

I am pleased to have signed into law today House Joint Resolution 94, a short-term continuing resolution for fiscal 1998.

The Act provides 1998 appropriations for continuing projects and activities of the Federal Government through October 23, 1997, except those funded by the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1998, which I signed into law earlier today.

On May 2, 1997, I reached agreement with the congressional leadership on an historic Bipartisan Budget Agreement that balances the budget while honoring our values. Over the next few months, my Administration worked closely with the leadership to translate the agreement into law. On August 5, I was proud to sign two key elements of the agreement—the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997. As the current fiscal year comes to a close, we must work together to

enact the third element of the agreement, the appropriations bills for fiscal 1998.

But to date, in a number of important instances, the Congress has failed to address matters specifically called for under the agreement. In certain other instances, the Congress has addressed policy issues in ways that make the pending appropriations bills unacceptable. I urge the Congress to approve 1998 spending bills that include the items contained in the agreement and to provide funding for other priority programs.

To give the Congress time to adopt such bills, I have approved this continuing resolution.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 30, 1997.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 94, approved September 30, was assigned Public Law No. 105–46.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran September 30, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Reg-*

ister and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran emergency declared in 1979 is to continue in effect beyond November 14,